

individual and collective service of these veterans continues to play a key role in protecting our democracy, during times of peace and times of war.

American veterans of Ukrainian descent continue to be a vital source of strength in every branch of the United States military, dating back to the dawn of America. The deep dedication to justice and significant contribution to American society by Ukrainian American veterans has been, and continues to be, a vital strength within our community, and within our Nation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Ukrainian Veterans of America, Post #24, as they commemorate the unwavering service reflected by veterans of Ukrainian heritage; their honorable service within the United States Armed Forces will be remembered always. Let us also recognize United States veterans of every ethnic background, whose united commitment serves to strengthen our entire Nation.

CELEBRATING AND SUSTAINING CHINESE AND AMERICAN CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Festival of China taking place at the Kennedy Center. This festival is the largest in the history of the Kennedy Center and the largest celebration of Chinese performing arts ever undertaken in the United States. Indeed, the Kennedy Center is coordinating the performances of more than 800 artists from China and the United States and is hosting more than 50 events associated with the month-long celebration.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that significant differences exist between the United States and China in some areas of current policy and practices. This is why it remains important that our government fosters cooperative artistic interaction between our two countries. I am pleased to commend the Kennedy Center and the Chinese Ministry of Culture for collaborating in this vein.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to draw this body's attention to the important role that these cultural exchanges play in the overarching relationship between China and the United States. As Chairman of the US-China Interparliamentary Exchange, I know that it is important that the United States and China continue to work to understand each other on a variety of levels. Mutual cooperation, particularly through U.S.-China exchange programs and cultural events, brings about a deeper understanding and, in turn, can strengthen our bilateral relationship, so we can resolve our differences.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud this exposition as it works to deepen our appreciation for some of China's unique cultural treasures and enhance the friendship between our two countries.

URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN COTE D'IVOIRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, democracy has begun to take hold in Afghanistan and Iraq recently, and today the United States has an opportunity to affirm democracy and democratic principles in another country—Cote d'Ivoire.

Congress, along with the Bush administration, must commit the resources that are needed to ensure that this strong U.S. ally can hold its election at the earliest possible date.

Just 5 years ago, 85 percent of the Ivorian people approved a Constitution mandating that Cote d'Ivoire's President remain in office until an election result.

Violating this critical provision of the Constitution could render the rest of the document null and void and throw the country into further chaos.

Postponing the election would also reward Cote d'Ivoire's anti-government rebels, who have waged a brutal campaign of fear and intimidation. Any peace plan must include the disarmament of these rebels.

Supporting democracy and democratic principles is of particular importance in Cote d'Ivoire, which is the economic anchor of West Africa.

I am today introducing a Sense of Congress Resolution urging the Bush Administration and the Congress to declare, unequivocally, that the United States supports a free and fair presidential election in Cote d'Ivoire at the earliest possible date, and I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this measure.

Supporting democracy, not thwarting it, must be a guiding principle of America's relations with nations throughout the world.

CONGRATULATING CRESTHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cresthill Middle School in Highlands Ranch Colorado. Cresthill has been named an Intel School of Distinction in Professional Development. This award recognizes schools in which teachers, administrators, and staff work together to continuously improve student learning.

The Intel School of Distinction award adds to the list of honors bestowed upon Cresthill Middle School, which has also been named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. These honors reflect the school's extraordinary commitment to education and speak to the dedication of the teachers, students, and parents.

Mr. Speaker, schools such as Cresthill Middle School that foster academic excellence for its students and professional development for its teachers, deserve recognition. In its mission statement, Cresthill Middle School champions all students in the quest toward achievement and responsible citizenship. I am proud to congratulate the school both for living up to

its mission and for being recognized as an Intel School of Distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on September 29, 2005, I was unable to vote during rollcall vote No. 504 as I had to attend a funeral in my District. Had I been present, I would have voted against H. Con. Res. 245.

I am increasingly concerned that resolutions like H. Con. Res. 245 are being used to score political points, rather than resolutions that could be well-intended expressions of reasonable patriotism and commitment to our national identity.

Similarly, in the last Congress, we considered legislation (H.R. 2028) that would strip the Federal Courts of jurisdiction over cases involving the Pledge of Allegiance. Though the legislation was intended to ostensibly deal with the "under God" controversy, which was bad enough considering the important role that the Courts play in ensuring that our legislative enactments are permissible in light of the Constitution's protections of our citizens, it unfortunately also had broad implications on cases in which individuals, especially members of religious minorities, would seek enforcement of their constitutional right for religious practice.

I voted against that legislation because it threatened the separation of powers established in our Constitution and undermined the constitutionally established function of the Federal Courts to interpret the law, a principle established in *Marbury v. Madison* two centuries ago. I believe that H. Con. Res. 245 would similarly be incompatible with the First Amendment's religious protections and would thereby harm religious minorities for whom the recitation of the Pledge is a violation of their faith.

Mr. Speaker, it is the responsibility of Congress to protect the rights of all of our citizens and to pass laws consistent with that great document, The Constitution of the United States, not pass laws that flout its principles. I believe that H. Con. Res. 245 deviates from those responsibilities and that is why, had I been able to attend the day's proceedings, I would have voted, "no."

BROCK PETERS IN MEMORIAM

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, It was with great sadness and a deep sense of loss that word was received of the death in Los Angeles of Brock Peters on August 23, 2005, one of America's most distinguished actors of stage and screen, whose deeds in life merit the respectful acknowledgement of his community and nation; and

Whereas, he was born George Fisher on July 2, 1927 in New York City, the child of Sonny and Alma A. Fisher, following a year at the University of Chicago in 1944 and undergraduate study at the City College of New